

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 RSR-01 /137 W

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R 140924 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3893

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1982

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MU, IR, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI VIEWS ON IRANIAN ECONOMIC AID TO OMAN

REF: A. JIDDA 1477; B. JIDDA 1618; C. KUWAIT 1605

1. WE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY EXPRESSION ON PART OF BRITISH
OFFICIAL IN OMAN GOVT, AS REPORTED REF C, TO EFFECT THAT
OMAN FEARS REGARDING POSSIBLE ADVERSE SAUDI REACTION
ARE INHIBITING OMAN GOVT FROM ASKING IRANIANS FOR
ECONOMIC AID.

2. IN RECENT MONTHS SAUDI ARABIA HAS COME TO
REALIZATION THAT SUBSTANTIAL INPUT OF ITS RESOURCES
ARE REQUIRED TO STRENGTHEN STATES ON PERIPHERY OF ARABIAN
PENINSULA ON WHOSE SECURITY THIS COUNTRY' S OWN SAFETY
DEPENDS. ACCORDINGLY THERE HAS BEEN SERIES OF DECISIONS
MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STRENGTHENING ECONOMIES OF
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NORTH YEMEN AND MORE RECENTLY OMAN (REF B).

3. HOWEVER, THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION OF AID FOR SURROUNDING DEPENDENT STATES SAUDIS HAVE MAINTAINED INSISTENT PLEAS TO OTHER GOVTS THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE OR EVEN INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. IN CASE OF OMAN, FOR EXAMPLE, BRITISH HAVE BEEN URGED BY SAUDIS AUGMENT THEIR SUPPORT FOR SULTAN QABOOS (DESPITE FACT SAUDI SPOKESMEN HAVE AT TIMES BEEN CRITICAL OF BRITISH PERFORMANCE AS CENTRAL ELEMENT IN OMAN' S DEFENSE FORCES).

4. WE INCLINED TO THINK, THEREFORE, THAT SAUDIS WOULD, CONTRARY TO TOWNSEND VIEW, BE HAPPY HAVE IRANIANS PICK UP PART OF FINANCIAL OR EVEN TECHNICAL BURDEN ASSISTING OMAN. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW IF SOME SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE LED OMAN TREASURY SECRETARY TO HOLD OPINION REPORTED REFTEL C.

5. SPIRIT OF SAUDI- IRANIAN COLLABORATION IN GULF AFFAIRS WHICH WE DESIROUS OF FOSTERING WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ENHANCED BY IRANIAN WILLINGNESS CONSULT WITH SAUDIS IN ADVANCE RE ANY PLANS FOR SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AID TO OMAN WHICH IRANIANS MIGHT PLAN TO UNDERTAKE.
THACHER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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